

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 ACDE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 IO-14 OIC-04 AEC-11

OMB-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 /152 W
----- 014798

P R 141544Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2771

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS 075

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENNA 4314

FROM US REP MBFR

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING MAY 10, 1974

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS RESUMED WEEK OF MAY 6 WITH THE PLENARY MEETING HELD ON 10 MAY. AT THAT SESSION, THE WARSAW PACT'S SPOKESMAN, CZECHOSLOVAK REP KLEIN, BRIEFLY RESTATED THE PACT'S POSITION THAT ITS 8 NOVEMBER DRAFT AGREEMENT OFFERS A RATIONAL SCHEME FOR THE REDUCTION OF FORCES AND ARMAMENTS THAT WILL BENEFIT ALL AND NOT DIMINISH ANY STATE'S SECURITY. NETHERLANDS REP QUARLES, SPEAKING FOR THE ALLIES, SUMMARIZED ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE WESTERN POSITION. THE AD HOC GROUP THIS WEEK APPROVED THE STATEMENT DELIVERED AT THE PLENARY, ACCEPTED THE US REP'S SUGGESTION THAT THE GROUP PROCEED WITHOUT HASTE BUT AT A DELIBERATE PACE, AGREED THAT THE INFORMAL SESSIONS WITH
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THE EAST SHOULD BE CONTINUED, AND AGREED ON SEVERAL PROCEDURAL

QUESTIONS. THE UK REP URGED THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD MAKE NO SUBSTANTIVE CONCESSIONS UNTIL THE EAST MAKES A SUBSTANTIVE COMMITMENT REGARDING PHASING AND THE COMMON CEILING. HE ALSO PROPOSED THAT THERE BE A DETAILED DISCUSSION WITH THE EAST ON THE DEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES AND THE DATA BASE. END SUMMARY.

2. CZECHOSLOVAK REP KLEIN BEGAN HIS MAY 18 PLENARY STATEMENT BY EXPRESSING SATISFACTION THAT THE TALKS HAD RESUMED, AND BY STATING THAT THE PREVIOUS SESSIONS HAD BEEN USEFUL BECAUSE EACH SIDE HAD CLARIFIED AND BECOME BETTER ACQUAINTED WITH THE OTHER'S POSITION. KLEIN REFERRED TO THE RECENT MEETING OF THE WARSAW PACT POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, POINTING OUT THAT THE SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS HAD NOTED THAT THE TENDENCY TOWARD DETENTE IS THE DOMINANT FEATURE IN EUROPE AND THE WORLD, AND HAD REAFFIRMED

THE NECESSITY TO SUPPLEMENT POLITICAL DETENTE WITH MILITARY DETENTE.

3. KLEIN SAID THAT THE PACT PARTICIPANTS HAD USED THE RECESS TO EXAMINE THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND HAD AGAIN CONCLUDED THAT THEIR APPROACH OFFERS A GOOD AND REALISTIC BASIS FOR ACHIEVING A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE AND JUST AGREEMENT. KLEIN POINTED OUT THAT THE PACT'S 8 NOVEMBER DRAFT AGREEMENT CALLS FOR THE REDUCTION OF ALL NATIONAL AND FOREIGN ARMED FORCES AND THEIR ARMS, INCLUDING AIR FORCES AND UNITS AND SUB-UNITS EQUIPPED WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS, BUT DID NOT ADD THE USUAL RUBRIC THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST REDUCE FROM THE OUTSET. IN A PRESENTATION OF LIMITED LENGTH, THIS OMISSION, HOWEVER, SHOULD NOT OF ITSELF BE TAKEN TO SIGNAL ANY CHANGES IN THE PACT'S POSITION. KLEIN CONCLUDED BY EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT THE EXCELLENT BUSINESS-LIKE ATMOSPHERE AT THE TALKS WILL HELP OVERCOME DISAGREEMENTS AND PROMOTE CONCRETE RESULTS. AFTER THE NETHERLANDS REP HAD FINISHED HIS STATEMENT (TEXT IN VIENNA 4155), THE CHAIRMAN (SOVIER REP KHLESTOV) STATED THAT THERE WOULD BE A PLENARY THE WEEK OF MAY 13 ON A DATE STILL TO BE ARRANGED.

4. THE AD HOC GROUP HAD LITTLE DIFFICULTY IN APPROVING THE TEXT OF THE MAY 10 PLENARY STATEMENT, DRAFTED INITIALLY BY THE US DEL. DURING THE DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT, SEVERAL

AHG MEMBERS INDICATED THAT THEY WERE CONCERNED ABOUT RECENT
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NEWSPAPER ARTICLES SUGGESTING THAT THE US IS CONSIDERING A UNILATERAL WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS. THE US REP ASSURED THE GROUP THAT THE ARTICLES, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN THE "NEW YORK TIMES" BY FINNEY, WERE ERRONEOUS.

5. THE US REP'S REVIEW ON 7 MAY OF HIS CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON AND HIS SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING FUTURE TACTICS WERE GENERALLY WELL-RECEIVED BY THE AHG. THE GROUP APPEARED TO WELCOME IN PARTICULAR

THE US REP'S SUGGESTION THAT THE ALLIES PROCEED WITHOUT HASTE BUT AT A DELIBERATE PACE DURING THE THIRD ROUND WITH EMPHASIS ON PHASING. THE PROPOSAL THAT INFORMAL MEETINGS WITH THE EAST BE CONTINUED WAS ACCEPTED, ALTHOUGH THE ACTING BELGIAN REP STATED FOR THE RECORD THAT HIS GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THE PLENARIES SHOULD REMAIN THE PRINCIPLE FORUM OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

6. THE US REP CIRCULATED FOR THE RECORD THE US PROPOSED GUIDANCE FOR NAC AND AHG (TEXT FROM US NATO 2411). HE INDICATED THAT THE US DEL BELIEVES THE ALLIES MIGHT START WITH THE FIXED PERIOD OF TIME CONCEPT AND PROCEED TO OTHER POINTS IN SEQUENCE, DEPENDING ON THE EASTERN RESPONSE. THE NETHERLANDS REP STATED THAT HE BELIEVED THE EIGHTEEN-MONTH DURATION OF THE FIXED PERIOD BETWEEN PHASES WAS TOO LONG. HE SAID THAT THE PROPOSED ASSURANCE TO THE EAST THAT ALL NON-US DIRECT PARTICIPANTS ON THE NATO SIDE WOULD REDUCE IN A SECOND PHASE MIGHT IMPLY THAT THE NATO SIDE WAS ACCEPTING SUBCEILINGS. THE

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 ACDE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

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SS-20 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 IO-14 OIC-04 AEC-11

OMB-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 /152 W
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P 141544Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2772

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

ALL MBFR MISSIONS 076

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 VIENNA 4314

FROM US REP MBFR

FRG AND ITALIAN REPS AGREED WITH THE NETHERLANDS REP'S LATTER POINT. THE ITALIAN REP NOTED THAT A NEW WORD, "ALL", HAD BEEN PREFIXED TO THE TERM "NON-US PARTICIPANTS". THE UK REP STATED ON 8 MAY THAT HE GENERALLY AGREED WITH THE FORMULATIONS AS THEY WERE PRESENTED BY THE US AT NATO ON 3 MAY, BUT NOTED THAT THERE WERE SOME AREAS OF THE US PRESENTATION THAT DID NOT CONFORM FULLY WITH THE UK POSITION. SINCE THESE QUESTIONS WERE UNDER DISCUSSION IN NATO, HE ADDED, HE WOULD NOT ADDRESS THEM IN DETAIL IN THE AHG. THE UK REP INDICATED HE COULD PROBABLY SUPPORT THE PROPOSED ASSURANCES TO THE EAST, BUT SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO RESERVE CONCERNING THE GUARANTEE THAT ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WOULD REDUCE IN THE SECOND PHASE.

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7. THE UK REP ON 8 MAY ALSO SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT DISCUSSION WOULD CONTINUE IN THE INFORMAL MEETINGS ON THE QUESTION OF "DEFINITION OF FORCES", AND SUGGESTED THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD ATTEMPT TO ENGAGE THE EAST IN A DATA DISCUSSION.

8. THE UK REP ALSO SUGGESTED THAT WHEN GUIDANCE IS RECEIVED FROM NATO, THE ALLIES SHOULD CONTINUE TO PROBE FOR FLEXIBILITY OR MOVEMENT IN THE EASTERN POSITION. HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD MAKE NO SUBSTANTIVE CONCESSIONS UNLESS THE EAST MADE SUBSTANTIVE COMMITMENTS ON THE COMMON CEILING AND PHASING.

9. THE AHG REACHED A CONSENSUS ON SEVERAL PROCEDURAL MATTERS. INFORMAL SESSIONS WITH THE EAST WILL BE CONTINUED ON A ONE PER WEEK BASIS, WITH THE FIRST TO TAKE PLACE ON 15 MAY. THE US REP AND DEPREP, NETHERLANDS REP, AND FRG REP WILL PARTICIPATE IN THAT MEETING. THE GROUP ACCEPTED THE US SUGGESTION THAT IT SEEK EASTERN AGREEMENT THAT PLENAIRES BE HELD ONLY ONE EVERY TWO WEEKS. SHOULD THE EAST INSIST THAT THEY BE HELD ON A WEEKLY BASIS, THE ALLIES WILL TELL THE PACT PARTICIPANTS THAT THEY INTEND TO SPEAK ONLY EVERY OTHER WEEK. ON 9 MAY, THE AHG APPROVED THE PROPOSAL OF THE CHAIRMAN (DANISH REP TILLISCH) THAT THE CANADIAN REP SERVE AS RAPPORTEUR, ACCOMPANIED BY NETHERLANDS REP AND DANISH REP, IN MAKING THE NEXT REPORT TO THE NAC ON 31 MAY.

10. COMMENT. THE DELEGATION INTENDS TO USE THE
FIRST FEW INFORMAL SESSIONS WITH THE EAST TO
PROBE WHETHER THE SOVIETS ARE AT THIS POINT
READY TO MAKE FORWARD MOVEMENT ON PHASING, FOR THAT
PURPOSE DRAWING ON THE GUIDANCE EXPECTED TO BE
APPROVED BY NATO THIS WEEK. END COMMENT.
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